

REMARKS

By the foregoing Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1 and 19 have been amended.

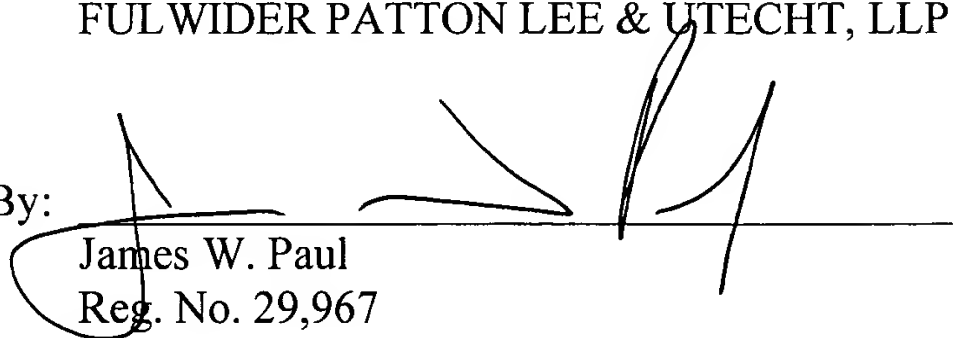
Claim 1 has been amended to recite "at least one of said servers being operative to establish direct communication between the first and second controllers, and said first and second controllers being operative to maintain direct communication between the first and second controllers independent of said at least one CPU of said first server and said at least one CPU of said second server." Claim 19 similarly has been amended to recite "at least one of said first and second servers being operative to establish direct communication between the first and second controllers, and said first and second controllers being operative to maintain direct communication between the first and second controllers independent of said at least one CPU of said first server and said at least one CPU of said second server." Support for the amendments can be found in Fig. 5 and the specification at page 12, lines 13-18. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references cited teach, disclose or suggest establishing direct communication between the first and second controllers, and maintaining direct communication between the first and second controllers independent of the CPUs of the first and second servers.

In light of the foregoing amendments, favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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